

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed 04/15/2005. Reconsideration in light of the amendments and remarks made herein is respectfully requested.

Drawings

1. The Examiner requests that Figures 1 and 2 be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art--. Corrected drawings are enclosed. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

2. The Examiner rejects claims 1-7, 15-16, 24, 26-27, 30-36, 44-45, 53, 55-56, 59-65, 73-74, 82, 84-85, 88, 89-96, 108, and 112 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Matthews et al. (US 6,584,122 B1).

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 15, 24, 30, 44, 53, 59, 73, 82, and 88 to included subject matter that the Examiner has indicated is allowable as discussed below. Regarding claims 2-7, 16, 26-27, 31-36, 45, 53, 55-56, 60-65, 74, 84-85, 89-96, 108, and 112, applicant relies on the patentability of the claims from which these claims depend to traverse the rejection without prejudice to any further basis for patentability of these claims based on the additional limitations recited.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1-7, 15-16, 24, 26-27, 30-36, 44-45, 53, 55-56, 59-65, 73-74, 82, 84-85, 88, 89-96, 108, and 112 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Matthews.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. The Examiner objects to claims 8-14, 17-23, 25, 28-29, 37-43, 46-52, 54, 57-58, 66-72, 75-81, 83, 86-87, 97-107, and 109-111 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but indicates that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 15, 24, 30, 44, 53, 59, 73, 82, and 88 to include all of the limitations of dependent claims 8, 18, 25, 37, 47, 54, 66, 76, 83, and 97 any intervening dependent claims and cancelled claims 7-8, 16, 18, 25, 36-37, 45, 47, 54, 65-66, 74, 76, 83, and 96-97. The remaining dependent claims have been amended as necessary to reflect the changes of the foregoing amendments and cancellations. Applicant respectfully requests that independent claims 1, 15, 24, 30, 44, 53, 59, 73, 82, and 88 and all claims that depend therefrom be allowed.

Applicant presents new claims 113-132 to include all of the limitations of dependent claims 98 and 99, the base claims and any intervening claims. Applicant respectfully requests that independent claims 113 and 123 and all claims that depend therefrom be allowed.

Claims 63-64 and 72 are cancelled to reduce the number of claims.

Conclusion

Applicant reserves all rights with respect to the applicability of the doctrine of equivalents. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

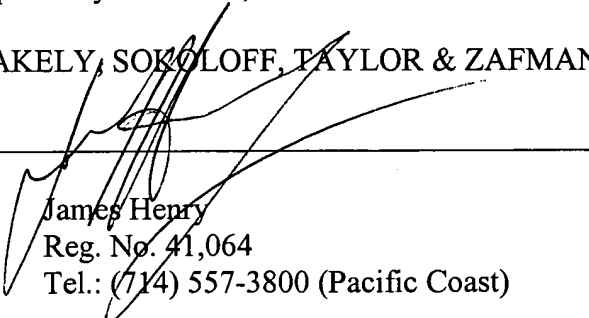
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Respectfully submitted,

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